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Fifty-first session
Agenda item 97

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part I)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled:

"Environment and sustainable development:

"(a) Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

"(b) Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

"(c) Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

"(d) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"(e) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

"(f) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/605 and addenda.

2. The Second Committee held a general discussion on the item at its 10th to 15th meetings, from 21 to 24 October 1996. An account of the Committee's general discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.10-15). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 6th and 8th meetings, from 14 to 18 October (see A/C.2/51/SR.3-6 and 8). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item is given in addenda to the present report, as follows:

Sub-item	Addendum
(a)	1
(b)	2
(c)	3
(d)	4
(e)	5
(f)	6
Questions not relating to specific sub-items	7

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for the year 1996 (A/51/3 (Part II));[1]

(b) Letter dated 20 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Trujillo Act and the Protocol Amending the Cartagena Agreement (A/51/87);

(c) Letter dated 7 May 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of France and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the texts of the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996 (A/51/131);

(d) Letter dated 5 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the summit meeting of seven major industrialized countries, held at Lyon, France, from 27 to 29 June 1996 (A/51/208-S/1996/543);

(e) Letter dated 28 May 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the results of the 95th Conference and related meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 15 to 20 April 1996 (A/51/210);

(f) Note verbale dated 11 July 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Sofia Declaration on Good-Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation

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[1] To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/51/3/Rev.1).

in the Balkans, adopted at the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Countries of South-Eastern Europe, held at Sofia on 6 and 7 July 1996 (A/51/211-S/1996/551);

(g) Letter dated 12 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué issued at the conclusion of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of Heads of Environment of the Caribbean Community, held at Bridgetown from 3 to 6 July 1996 (A/51/295);

(h) Letter dated 12 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Forum Communiqué adopted by the twenty-seventh South Pacific Forum, held at Majuro, Marshall Islands, from 3 to 5 September 1996 (A/51/357);

(i) Letter dated 13 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of the Tenth Summit of Heads of States and Government of the Rio Group, held at Cochabamba, Bolivia, on 3 and 4 September 1996 (A/51/375);

(j) Letter dated 30 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, adopted in New York on 24 September 1996 on the occasion of the celebration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Movement (A/51/462-S/1996/831);

(k) Letter dated 30 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, held in New York on 25 September 1996 (A/51/473-S/1996/839);

(l) Letter dated 4 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 and China adopted at the twentieth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held in New York on 27 September 1996 (A/51/471);

(m) Letter dated 18 October 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan and Kazakstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a joint statement on Caspian Sea questions adopted at Baku on 16 September 1996 (A/51/529);

(n) Letter dated 28 October 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of Hungary, Italy and Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a joint declaration by their Foreign Ministers issued in Rome on 23 October 1996 (A/51/649-S/1996/901);

(o) Letter dated 5 November 1996 from the representatives of Azerbaijan, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Tashkent Declaration,

signed at the end of the fourth summit meeting of the Heads of State of the Turkish-Speaking Countries (A/51/664-S/1996/930);

(p) Letter dated 16 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development and the World Solar Programme 1996-2005: An Outline, adopted by Heads of State and Government at the World Solar Summit, held at Harare on 16 and 17 September 1996 (A/C.2/51/5);

(q) Letter dated 26 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/51/6);

(r) Letter dated 19 November 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of Denmark and South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Workshop on Financial Mechanisms and Sources of Finance for Sustainable Forestry, held at Pretoria from 4 to 7 June 1996 (A/C.2/51/8);

(a) Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

(a) Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/51/3 (Part II));[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa: implementation of resolution 50/112 (A/51/510);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, on its eighth session (A/51/76);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, on its ninth session (A/51/76/Add.1);

(b) Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

Report of the Secretary-General on the special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 (A/51/420);

(c) Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (A/51/312);

(d) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing Countries

Report of the Secretary-General on action taken at the international, regional and national levels to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/51/354);

(e) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (A/51/484);

(f) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

Report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/51/186-E/1996/80).

4. At the 10th meeting, on 21 October, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development under sub-items 97 (d) and (e) and the Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs under sub-item 97 (f) (see A/C.2/51/SR.10).

5. At the 11th meeting, on 22 October, the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity made an introductory statement under sub-item 97 (c) (see A/C.2/51/SR.11).

6. At the 12th meeting, on 22 October, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development under sub-item 97 (b) and the Executive Secretary of the Interim Secretariat for the Convention to Combat Desertification under sub-item 97 (a) (see A/C.2/51/SR.12).

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part II)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 97 (see A/51/604, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 23rd and 37th meetings, on 31 October and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.23 and 37).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/51/L.10 AND L.39

2. At the 23rd meeting, on 31 October, the representative of Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.10) entitled "Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa". Subsequently, Canada joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/605 and addenda.

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"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 47/188 of 22 December 1992, 48/191 of 21 December 1993, 49/234 of 23 December 1994 and 50/112 of 20 December 1995 related to the elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

"Recalling also the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

"Recalling further its resolution 50/114 of 20 December 1995, in which it recalled the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development set forth in chapter 12 of Agenda 21, entitled 'Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought',

"Noting the ongoing work in preparation of the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention undertaken by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

"Noting with satisfaction that to date more than fifty countries have already ratified the Convention,

"Recalling that, in accordance with article 22, paragraph 4, of the Convention,[1] the first session of the Conference of the Parties shall be convened by the interim secretariat of the Convention and shall take place not later than one year after the date of entry into force of the Convention,

"Having considered the recommendations and decisions made by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its eighth and ninth sessions regarding the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,[2]

"Having considered also the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/112 of 20 December 1995[3] and on possible requirements for intergovernmental and secretariat work on the implementation of the Convention and its regional implementation annexes to respond effectively to the needs in the African, Asian and Latin American and the Caribbean regions,

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[1] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

[2] See A/51/76 and Add.1

[3] A/51/510.

"Considering that the Convention is one of the most important achievements in the implementation and follow-up of the recommendations and decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992,

"Taking into account the basic provisions of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

"1. Welcomes the fact that, in conformity with article 36, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the Convention will enter into force on 26 December 1996, and calls upon more countries to take appropriate action for the ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention;

"2. Urges the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, to continue at its tenth session, to be held from 6 to 17 January 1997 in New York, its plan for the preparatory work for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

"3. Decides to convene, as necessary, before the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in 1997, a further session of the Committee, of up to two weeks' duration, the exact dates and venue of which shall be determined by the Committee at its tenth session;

"4. Decides also that the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention shall be held for two weeks in October 1997;

"5. Accepts with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Italy to host in Rome, at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

"6. Decides to include the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1997-1998;

"7. Requests the head of the interim secretariat to continue to promote cooperation and coordination with other relevant organizations and entities, particularly those of the United Nations system, in support of the regional implementation annexes, aimed, inter alia, at facilitating timely financial and technical assistance to affected developing country parties, particularly those in Africa, to enable them to fulfil their commitments under the Convention;

"8. Urges all States, the United Nations system, including international financial institutions and all other relevant organizations and actors, to take concrete actions and measures for the full and effective implementation of the provisions of Intergovernmental Negotiating

Committee resolution 5/1 of 17 June 1994 on urgent action for Africa,[4] as well as to promote actions for other affected developing countries and regions;

"9. Notes the arrangements and contributions made by the Secretary-General and relevant organizations, funds and programmes active in the fields of desertification and/or drought;

"10. Takes note with appreciation of previous contributions made and calls for additional contributions to the extrabudgetary funds established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188 to assist all developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the negotiating process and in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies;

"11. Renews its appeal to Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, as well as to non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to continue to make contributions to relevant United Nations bodies, in order to strengthen their capacity to support activities to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought in all affected developing countries and regions, particularly in Africa;

"12. Requests the Secretary-General, in the context of the relevant United Nations programme budget for the interim secretariat of the Convention, to continue to provide support to it until 31 December 1998, and to maintain the above-mentioned extrabudgetary funds;

"13. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and relevant institutions;

"14. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to it, at its fifty-second session, on the implementation of the present resolution and on any possible implications arising from the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on its first session;

"15. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled 'Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa'."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mohammad Reza Hadji Karim Djabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.39), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.10.

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[4] See A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix III, sect. A.

4. The Committee had before it a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.39, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/51/L.48).

5. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union) and Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) (see A/C.2/51/SR.37).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.39 (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.39, draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.10 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/188 of 22 December 1992, 48/191 of 21 December 1993, 49/234 of 23 December 1994 and 50/112 of 20 December 1995 related to the elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recalling also the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[5]

Recalling further its resolution 50/114 of 20 December 1995, in which it recalled the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development set forth in chapter 12 of Agenda 21, entitled "Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought",

Noting the ongoing work in preparation of the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention undertaken by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to

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[5] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Noting with satisfaction that to date more than fifty countries have already ratified the Convention,

Recalling that, in accordance with article 22, paragraph 4, of the Convention,[5] the first session of the Conference of the Parties shall be convened by the interim secretariat of the Convention and shall take place not later than one year after the date of entry into force of the Convention,

Having considered the recommendations and decisions made by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its eighth and ninth sessions regarding the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,[6]

Having considered also the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/112 of 20 December 1995[7] and on possible requirements for intergovernmental and secretariat work on the implementation of the Convention and its regional implementation annexes to respond effectively to the needs in the African, Asian and Latin American and the Caribbean regions,

Considering that the Convention is one of the most important achievements in the implementation and follow-up of the recommendations and decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992,

Taking into account the basic provisions of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

1. Welcomes the fact that, in conformity with article 36, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the Convention will enter into force on 26 December 1996, and calls upon more countries to take appropriate action for the ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention;

2. Urges the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, at its tenth session, to be held in New York from 6 to 17 January 1997, to aim at finalizing all the outstanding negotiating issues, including the negotiations of the two working groups and the plan for the preparatory work for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

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[6] See A/51/76 and Add.1.

[7] A/51/510.

3. Recalls the decision contained in paragraph 4 of its resolution 50/112 and, in this context, takes note of paragraph 3 of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee decision 9/5 of 13 September 1996;[8]

4. Decides that the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention shall be held from 29 September to 10 October 1997;

5. Accepts with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Italy to host in Rome, at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

6. Decides to include the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1997-1998;

7. Requests the head of the interim secretariat to continue to promote cooperation and coordination with other relevant organizations and entities, particularly those of the United Nations system, in support of the regional implementation annexes, aimed, inter alia, at facilitating the efforts of affected developing country parties, particularly those in Africa, to fulfil their commitments under the Convention;

8. Urges all States, the United Nations system, including international financial institutions and all other relevant organizations and actors, to take concrete actions and measures for the full and effective implementation of the provisions of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 of 17 June 1994 on urgent action for Africa,[9] as well as to promote actions for other affected developing countries and regions;

9. Notes the arrangements and contributions made by the Secretary-General and relevant organizations, funds and programmes active in the fields of desertification and/or drought;

10. Notes with appreciation the contributions made thus far to the Trust Fund established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations to continue to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund to support the interim secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the work of the Committee, and also for the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties to support the secretariat of the Convention and the work of the Conference of the Parties;

11. Also notes with appreciation the contributions made to the Special Voluntary Fund established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188 to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively

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[8] A/51/76/Add.1, annex, appendix II.

[9] See A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix III, sect. A.

in the negotiating process, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other organizations to continue to contribute generously to the Fund also for the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties;

12. Renews its appeal to Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, as well as to non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to continue to make contributions to relevant United Nations bodies, in order to strengthen their capacity to support activities to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought in all affected developing countries and regions, particularly in Africa;

13. Requests the Secretary-General, subject to the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, to consider:

(a) Authorizing the secretariat established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188 to act as secretariat for the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties until the permanent secretariat designated by the Conference of the Parties begins operating, which should not be later than 31 December 1998;

(b) Maintaining the arrangements within the current programme budget for the interim secretariat to support the Convention beyond the first session of the Conference of the Parties until the permanent secretariat designated by the Conference of the Parties begins operating, which should not be later than 31 December 1998, and maintaining the arrangements relating to extrabudgetary funds;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and relevant institutions;

15. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to it, at its fifty-second session, on the implementation of the present resolution and on any possible implications arising from the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on its first session;

16. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa".

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: SPECIAL SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF AN OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

Report of the Second Committee (Part III)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 97 (see A/51/605, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 24th and 37th meetings, on 1 November and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.24 and 37).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/51/L.9 AND L.41

2. At the 24th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.9) entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21", which read:

"The General Assembly,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/605 and addenda.

"Recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene, not later than 1997, a special session, for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21,

"Reaffirming its resolution 50/113 of 20 December 1995, as the agreed basis that determines the modalities for the preparations for the special session, including the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development as the functional commission of the Economic and Social Council mandated to follow-up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as the role of other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system,

"Strongly reaffirming that the special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 will be undertaken on the basis of and in full respect of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular principle 7 on the common but differentiated responsibilities of States,

"Taking note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the 1997 special session, and taking into account the views and concerns expressed by delegations to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996 and to the Second Committee of the General Assembly at its fifty-first session,

"Stressing that there should be no attempt to renegotiate Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, or other intergovernmental agreements in the field of sustainable development, but that discussion should concentrate on commitments and the further implementation of Agenda 21 and related post-Conference outcomes,

"1. Decides to convene the special session envisaged in General Assembly resolutions 47/190 of 22 December 1992 and 50/113 of 20 December 1995 for a duration of one week, from 23 to 27 June 1997, at the highest possible level of participation;

"2. Decides also that the Commission on Sustainable Development will devote the forthcoming meeting of its ad hoc open-ended inter-sessional working group, to be held from 24 February to 7 March 1997, to preparing for the special session, and that the Commission will devote its fifth session, to be held from 7 to 25 April 1997, as a negotiating meeting, to final preparations for the special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

"3. Calls upon the international community to engage the full participation of high-level scientific and technical experts, consistent with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, both in preparatory meetings and at the special session itself;

"4. Requests the Secretariat to provide, not later than 15 January 1997, all relevant reports called for in General Assembly

resolution 50/113, including all other reports related to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, for consideration by the ad hoc open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Sustainable Development and by the Commission at its fifth session;

"5. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that preparations for the comprehensive report are conducted in accordance with paragraph 13 of Assembly resolution 50/113;

"6. Also requests:

"(a) That other contributing reports/inputs to the special session incorporate, without prejudice, information on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the global freshwater assessment and from the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Global Environmental Facility and other bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the regional commissions and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and information on relevant United Nations conventions dealing with the environment, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, on regional and inter-sessional meetings organized by countries and on activities organized by major groups, including business and industry, and non-governmental organizations;

"(b) That, in the context of the special session, specific modalities be recommended for examining all outstanding chapters of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and for undertaking the full review of the Programme of Action in 1999;

"7. Further requests the Secretary-General, in his report for the special session on cross-sectoral issues of Agenda 21, to give special consideration to poverty, financial resources and mechanisms, education, science, the transfer of technology, production and consumption patterns, and trade and environment, with respect to the importance of sectoral issues;

"8. Welcomes the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996, and its relevance to the field of sustainable development, calls for effective interaction and exchange of information on work carried out by the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Commission on Human Settlements, and invites the Commission on Human Settlements to make a contribution to the special session in connection with the implementation of the Habitat Agenda adopted in Istanbul;

"9. Recognizes the important contributions made by major groups, including non-governmental organizations, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in the implementation of its

recommendations, and the need for their involvement in preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contributions during the special session;

"10. Invites Governments and regional organizations that have not yet done so to submit their national profiles as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 50/113;

"11. Also invites Governments to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, in participating fully in the special session and its preparatory process, and to make timely contributions to the Trust Fund for Support of the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

"12. Further invites Governments to participate in the proposed joint meeting of ministers of finance and ministers responsible for the environment during the high-level segment of the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

"13. Requests the Secretary-General to enhance the public information programme of the United Nations in order to raise global awareness in a balanced manner, in all countries, of both the special session and the work undertaken by the United Nations in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and invites all Governments to promote widespread dissemination at all levels of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and to make voluntary contributions to support the public outreach activities of the United Nations for the special session;

"14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the sub-item 'Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21', and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-second session a report on the special session."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mohammad Reza Hadji Karim Djabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.41), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.9.

4. The Secretary of the Committee made a statement regarding the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.41 (see A/C.2/51/SR.37).

5. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Papua New Guinea made a statement (see A/C.2/51/SR.37).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.41 (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.41, draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.9 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene, not later than 1997, a special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21,[1]

Reaffirming its resolution 50/113 of 22 December 1995, as the agreed basis that determines the modalities for the preparations for the special session, including the relevant role of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as the functional commission of the Economic and Social Council mandated to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as the role of other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system,

Strongly reaffirming that the special session for the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 will be undertaken on the basis of and in full respect of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2]

Taking note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the 1997 special session,[3] and taking into account the views and concerns expressed by delegations to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session, the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session and the Second Committee of the General Assembly at its fifty-first session,

1. Decides to convene the special session envisaged in its resolution 47/190 for a duration of one week, from 23 to 27 June 1997, at the highest political level of participation;

2. Decides also that the Commission on Sustainable Development will devote the forthcoming meeting of its ad hoc open-ended inter-sessional working

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[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, (United Nations publication (Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] A/51/420.

group, to be held from 24 February to 7 March 1997, to preparing for the special session, and that the Commission will devote its fifth session, to be held from 7 to 25 April 1997 as a negotiating meeting, to final preparations for the special session for the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

3. Recognizes the important contributions made by major groups, including non-governmental organizations, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in the implementation of its recommendations, and the need for their effective participation in preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements, taking into account the practice and experience gained at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, for their substantive contributions to and active involvement in the preparatory meetings and the special session, and in that context invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for the effective involvement of major groups in the special session;

4. Decides to invite States members of the specialized agencies which are not members of the United Nations to participate in the work of the special session in the capacity of observers;

5. Stresses that there should be no attempt to renegotiate Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests[4] or other internationally recognized intergovernmental agreements in the field of environment and sustainable development, and that discussions at both the preparatory meetings and the special session should focus on the fulfilment of commitments and the further implementation of Agenda 21 and related post-Conference outcomes;

6. Requests the Secretariat to provide all relevant reports called for in General Assembly resolution 50/113, including all other reports related to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, for consideration by the ad hoc open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Sustainable Development and by the Commission at its fifth session, in accordance with the six-week rule and preferably not later than 15 January 1997;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that preparations for the comprehensive report are conducted in accordance with paragraph 13 (a), (b), (c) and (d) of Assembly resolution 50/113;

8. Invites the Secretary-General to include in the reports requested in Assembly resolution 50/113 for the preparation of the special session

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[4] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex III.

information on the application of the principles contained in the Rio Declaration, and invites the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to include in its report to the General Assembly at its special session information and views on ways to address, in a forward-looking manner, national, regional and international application of these principles and the implementation of Agenda 21 in the interrelated issues of environment and development;

9. Decides to consider at its special session, inter alia, the application of the principles of the Rio Declaration at all levels - national, regional and international - and to make relevant recommendations thereon;

10. Also requests that other contributions to the special session, in addition to those identified in its resolution 50/113, include submissions from relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations, including the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Global Environmental Facility, information on the outcomes of United Nations conferences held since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, such as the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[5] regional and subregional conferences, summits and other inter-sessional meetings on sustainable development organized by countries, and information on the activities of relevant United Nations conventions on the environment and development and the global freshwater assessment, and that account be taken of the activities organized by major groups, including business and industry and non-governmental organizations;

11. Further requests the Secretary-General, in the report on cross-sectoral issues of Agenda 21 for the special session, to give special consideration, without prejudice to other priority issues that may be identified in the preparatory process, to combating poverty and to health, financial resources and mechanisms, education, science, transfer of technology, consumption and production patterns, trade, environment and sustainable development, major groups, demographic dynamics, capacity-building and decision-making;

12. Requests the Secretary-General, in the reports for the special session, to give consideration, where appropriate and without prejudice to other priority issues that may be identified in the preparatory process, to linkages between the cross-sectoral issues of Agenda 21 and relevant sectoral issues;

13. Welcomes the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996, and its relevance to the field of sustainable development, calls for effective interaction and exchange of information on work carried out by the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Commission on Human Settlements, and invites the

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[5] Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Commission on Human Settlements to make a contribution to the special session in connection with the implementation of the Habitat Agenda[6] adopted in Istanbul;

14. Invites Governments and regional organizations to cooperate with the Secretary-General in preparing country profiles for review at the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as envisaged in paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 50/113;

15. Invites Governments to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, in participating fully in the special session and its preparatory process, and to make timely contributions to the Trust Fund for Support of the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to enhance the public information programme of the United Nations so as to raise global awareness in a balanced manner, in all countries, of both the special session and the work undertaken by the United Nations in the follow-up to the Conference, and invites all Governments to promote widespread dissemination at all levels of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and to make voluntary contributions to support the public outreach activities of the United Nations for the special session;

17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the sub-item entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at that session a report on the special session.

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[6] A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

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Fifty-first session
Agenda item 97 (c)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Report of the Second Committee (Part IV)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 97 (see A/51/605, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 22nd and 37th meetings, on 30 October and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.22 and 37).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/51/L.5 AND L.31

2. At the 22nd meeting, on 30 October, the representative of Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.5) entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity", which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 49/117 of 19 December 1994 and 50/111 of 20 December 1995 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and resolution

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/605 and addenda.

49/119 of 19 December 1994 on the International Day for Biological Diversity,

"Recalling the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

"Recalling also Agenda 21, particularly its chapter 15, on the conservation of biological diversity, and related chapters,

"Recalling further the recommendations made at the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the review of chapter 15 of Agenda 21 on the conservation of biological diversity,

"Deeply concerned by the continuing loss of the world's biological diversity and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reaffirming the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, the provision of financial resources, technology transfer, respect for each country's intellectual property rights, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, in particular for the developing countries,

"Emphasizing that the Convention is an instrument aimed at achieving sustainable development, and taking into account its three objectives,

"Noting with satisfaction that most States Members of the United Nations and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and calling upon those States that are not parties to take appropriate action to that end,

"Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Argentina to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties at Buenos Aires from 4 to 15 November 1996,

"Encouraged by the work carried out to date under the Convention,

"1. Welcomes the results of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Jakarta from 6 to 17 November 1995, as reflected in the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention, submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 50/111, and takes note of the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity, which proposes a framework for global action;

"2. Takes note of the results of the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held at the headquarters of the secretariat of the Convention at Montreal from 2 to 6 September 1996, and of the work carried out at the first meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety, held at Aarhus, Denmark from 22 to 26 July 1996;

"3. Calls upon those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to expedite their internal procedures of ratification, acceptance or approval;

"4. Also calls upon the international community, including multilateral mechanisms and existing funds and programmes, to provide adequate and additional resources, in an expeditious manner, for activities related to the Convention on Biological Diversity, taking into account the three objectives of the Convention;

"5. Welcomes the work being carried out under the Convention aimed at enhancing cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development, conventions related to biological diversity and other international agreements, institutions and processes of relevance, and invites the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its fourth meeting, to consider ways of promoting closer cooperation between the Conference of the Parties and the General Assembly with respect to aspects of sustainable development that are related to biological diversity;

"6. Requests the Conference of the Parties to submit to the General Assembly at its special session in 1997, a report considering, inter alia, progress made and problems encountered, and the effectiveness of inter-agency arrangements established to follow-up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and suggesting, on the basis of experience gained under the Convention, ways of promoting effective and efficient support in the area of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system for the period after 1997;

"7. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly on a regular basis, including at its fifty-second session, on the results of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

"8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled 'Convention on Biological Diversity'".

3. At the 37th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mohammad Reza Hadji Karim Djabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.31), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.5.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.31 (see para. 7).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the Marshall Islands made a statement (see A/C.2/51/SR.37).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.31, draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.5 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on biological diversity

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 49/117 of 19 December 1994 and 50/111 of 20 December 1995 on the Convention on Biological Diversity, and resolution 49/119 of 19 December 1994 on the International Day for Biological Diversity,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1]

Also recalling Agenda 21,[2] particularly its chapter 15, on the conservation of biological diversity, and related chapters,

Further recalling the recommendations made at the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the review of chapter 15 of Agenda 21 on the conservation of biological diversity,[3]

Deeply concerned by the continued loss of the world's biological diversity and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reaffirming the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources,

Emphasizing that the Convention on Biological Diversity is an important instrument for achieving sustainable development, taking into account its three objectives,

Notes with satisfaction that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention,

Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Argentina to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Buenos Aires from 4 to 15 November 1996,

Encouraged by the work carried out to date under the Convention,

1. Welcomes the results of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Jakarta, Indonesia

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[1] See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[2] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32), chap. I, para. 230 (i)).

from 6 to 17 November 1995, as reflected in the report of the meetings,[4] submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/111, and in that context reaffirms the need to take concrete action to fulfil the three objectives of the Convention, and takes note of the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity, which proposes a framework for global action;[5]

2. Takes note of the results of the second meeting of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held at the seat of the secretariat of the Convention in Montreal from 2 to 6 September 1996, and of the work carried out at the first meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety, held in Aarhus, Denmark from 22 to 26 July 1996;

3. Encourages those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so;

4. Recognizes that States Parties have agreed to provide financial resources for the implementation of the Convention in accordance with article 20, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Convention;

5. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention to provide to the General Assembly at its special session in 1997, inter alia, information on experience gained under the Convention to date, and information on effective arrangements for the coordination of activities related to the objectives of the Convention;

6. Welcomes the work being carried out under the Convention to enhance cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions, and invites the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to take into account the outcome of the 1997 special session at its fourth meeting, when considering ways of promoting greater cooperation with the United Nations system and the international community in relation to activities relevant to the objectives of the Convention;

7. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, and pending the outcome of the 1997 special session, to report to the Assembly on the results of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

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[4] A/51/312, annex.

[5] Ibid., appendix.

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Report of the Second Committee (Part V)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 97 (see A/51/605, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 22nd and 38th meetings, on 30 October and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.22 and 38).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/51/L.7 AND L.35

2. At the 22nd meeting, on 30 October, the representative of Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.7) entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States". Subsequently, Canada joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/605 and addenda.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 49/122 of 19 December 1994, 49/100 of 19 December 1994 and 50/116 of 20 December 1995, on or related to the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and reaffirming Commission on Sustainable Development decision 4/16 on the review of the implementation of the programme of action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"Reaffirming that, because development options of small island developing States are limited, there are special challenges to devising and implementing sustainable development plans, and that small island developing States will be constrained in terms of meeting such challenges and overcoming the obstacles to sustainable development without the active support and cooperation of the international community,

"Stressing the need for greater attention to priority areas of the Programme of Action, particularly transport and communications, tourism, energy, science and technology, biodiversity resources and climate change and sea-level rise,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on action taken at the international, regional and national levels, inter alia, by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and welcomes in particular the action that has been taken by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat to support the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action;

"2. Stresses the importance of maintaining the Small Island Developing States Unit within the above-mentioned Department, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain and strengthen the level of staffing, structure and organization of the Unit, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/122;

"3. Welcomes the action that has been taken enabling the regional commissions to support activities to coordinate the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"4. Notes with some concern the impact that may evolve from the decision of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session related to programme support for small island developing countries, within the framework of the Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to implement fully the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/122;

"5. Calls upon Governments, as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to continue to implement fully all the

commitments and recommendations that were made at the Global Conference, and to continue to take the necessary action for effective follow-up to the Programme of Action, including action to ensure the provisions of the means of implementation under chapter XV thereof;

"6. Recognizes the importance of the technical assistance programme (SIDSTAP) and the information network for small island developing States (SIDSNET) in the overall implementation of the Programme of Action, takes note of the progress made by the United Nations Development Programme in implementing General Assembly resolution 49/122, and invites the United Nations Development Programme to implement fully all provisions, both of the technical assistance programme and of the information network for small island developing States;

"7. Takes note of the support that has been provided by the Commission on Sustainable Development to following up the implementation of the Programme of Action in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/122 and the Programme of Action itself, and invites the Commission at its fifth session to continue its support and attention to the Programme of Action in respect of the preparations for the special session of the Assembly to be held in June 1997;

"8. Welcomes with appreciation the inclusion of the development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States as part of the work programme of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development for 1996-1999, and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to commence work as soon as possible on the development and compilation of the index, to be prepared by the Department in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations and experts as regards the index, and scheduled for 1997;

"9. Requests the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, in its coordinating role, to formulate appropriate modalities for mobilizing resources for effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

"10. Welcomes the report of the High-level Panel Meeting on Island Developing Countries, examined at the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

"11. Decides to establish an informal open-ended working group within the existing Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, with the membership of all States, including all relevant sectors in disaster reduction, with a view to ensuring full integration and participation of small island developing States in the mapping of a concerted strategy for disaster reduction into the twenty-first century;

"12. Urges the international community to support small island developing States in their efforts to adapt to the sea-level rise that will be experienced as a result of the impact of greenhouse gases that have

already been emitted into the atmosphere and in improving access to disaster and warning information in order to enhance the capability of small island developing States with respect to disaster management;

"13. Calls upon the international community, and financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, within the framework of its operational strategy, to support commercial energy development in small island developing States based on environmentally sound renewable sources with demonstrated viability, to support improvement of the efficiency of existing technologies and end-use equipment based on conventional energy sources, and to assist with the financing of investments necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

"14. Also calls upon the international community to support the efforts of, and to provide assistance to small island developing States as regards improving and acquiring the means of maritime transport and development of infrastructure in small island developing States, including airports and harbours, roads and telecommunications;

"15. Welcomes action at the national and regional levels by small island developing States, and invites all Governments, with the assistance of international and regional organizations, to continue to support and to provide information on all of their major activities under the Programme of Action so as to enable an adequate review of the aforementioned action taken at the national and regional levels;

"16. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the plans, programmes and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States that have been implemented in response to the Programme of Action, as well as those that are under implementation and those that are envisaged for implementation within five years of the date of the report;

"17. Decides that the report pertaining to the vulnerability index should be tabled for consideration by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, and that the Committee for Development Planning should table its views and recommendations on the report on the index, for consideration by the Economic and Social Council in 1997;

"18. Also decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States';

"19. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At the 38th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mohammad Reza Hadji Karim Djabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran), introduced a

draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.35), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.7.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.35 (see para. 7).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Papua New Guinea made a statement (see A/C.2/51/SR.38).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.35, draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.7 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/100 and 49/122 of 19 December 1994 and 50/116 of 20 December 1995, on or related to the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and reaffirming Commission on Sustainable Development decision 4/16[1] on the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[2]

Reaffirming that, because the development options of small island developing States are limited, there are special challenges to devising and implementing sustainable development plans, and that small island developing States will be constrained in meeting such challenges and overcoming obstacles to sustainable development without the active support and cooperation of the international community,

Stressing the need for greater attention to priority areas of the Programme of Action, particularly climate change and sea-level rise, energy resources, tourism resources, biodiversity resources, transport and communications and science and technology,

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[1] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 8 (E/1996/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[2] Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General[3] on action taken at the international, regional and national levels, inter alia, by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[2] and welcomes in particular the action that has been taken by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat to support the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action;

2. Stresses the importance of maintaining the Small Island Developing States Unit within the above-mentioned Department, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain the Unit at an appropriate level of staff and improve the structure and organization of the Unit, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/122;

3. Welcomes the work being done by the regional commissions to support activities to coordinate the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

4. Takes note of the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, at its ninth session, related to programme support for small island developing countries,[4] within the framework of the Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to implement fully the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/122;

5. Calls upon Governments, as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to continue to implement fully all the commitments and recommendations that were made at the Global Conference, and to continue to take the necessary actions for effective follow-up to the Programme of Action, including action to ensure the provision of the means of implementation under chapter XV thereof;

6. Recognizes the importance of the technical assistance programme (SIDSTAP) and the information network for small island developing States (SIDSNET) in the overall implementation of the Programme of Action, takes note of the progress made by the United Nations Development Programme in implementing General Assembly resolution 49/122, and requests the Programme, in cooperation with Governments, to continue its actions to implement fully all provisions in order to operationalize the two mechanisms;

7. Takes note of the support that has been provided by the Commission on Sustainable Development to following up the implementation of the Programme of Action in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/122 and the Programme of Action itself, and invites the Commission at its fifth session to continue its support for and attention to the Programme of Action, as an integral part of

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[3] A/51/354.

[4] TD/378.

the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in June 1997;

8. Requests that, in the context of the special session of the General Assembly, specific modalities will be recommended to examine all outstanding chapters of the Programme of Action, and for undertaking the full review of the Programme of Action in 1999;

9. Welcomes the inclusion of the development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States as part of the work programme of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development for 1996-1997, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, other relevant United Nations organizations and non-United Nations organizations, to prepare a report based on the views of relevant experts on the vulnerability index, in 1997;

10. Requests the Committee for Development Planning, at its thirty-second session, to formulate its views and recommendations on the above-mentioned report, with a view to submitting those views to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, and to make this information available to the Commission on Sustainable Development;

11. Requests the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, in its coordinating role, to look into appropriate modalities for mobilizing resources for effective implementation of the Programme of Action and provide information thereon;

12. Requests closer collaboration and greater transparency between the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the United Nations Development Programme for effective implementation of the technical assistance programme (SIDSTAP), and requests detailed information to be made available to Governments on actions taken to this effect;

13. Welcomes the report of the High-level Panel Meeting on Island Developing Countries[5] on the challenges faced by island developing countries, particularly in the area of external trade, considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the views of Governments on an informal open-ended working group within the existing Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,[6] with the membership of all concerned States, including all relevant sectors in disaster reduction, with a view to ensuring full integration and participation of small island developing States in the mapping of a concerted strategy for disaster reduction into the twenty-first century and in improving access to disaster and warning information

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[5] E/CN.17/1996/IDC/3-UNCTAD/LLDC/IDC.3.

[6] See resolution 44/236, annex.

in order to enhance the capability of small island developing States with respect to disaster management;

15. Stresses that small island developing States are particularly vulnerable to global climate change and sea-level rise, and that the potential effects of global climate change and sea-level rise are increased strength and frequency of tropical storms and inundation of some islands, with loss of exclusive economic zones, economic infrastructure, human settlements and culture, and urges the international community to support small island developing States in their efforts to adapt to the sea-level rise that will be experienced as a result of the impact of greenhouse gases that have already been emitted into the atmosphere;

16. Calls upon the international community, including the Global Environment Facility, within the framework of its operational strategy, to support commercial energy development in small island developing States based on those environmentally sound renewable sources with demonstrated viability, to support improvement of the efficiency of existing technologies and end-use equipment based on conventional energy sources, and to assist with the financing of investments necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

17. Further calls upon the international community, where appropriate, to support the efforts of and to provide assistance to small island developing States with respect to improving and acquiring, through appropriate investment incentives and innovative measures, the means of maritime transport and development of infrastructure in small island developing States, such as airports, harbours, roads and telecommunications;

18. Welcomes actions at the national and regional levels by small island developing States, and invites all Governments, with the assistance of international and regional organizations, to provide information on all of their major activities under the Programme of Action so as to enable an adequate review of the actions taken at the national and regional levels;

19. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the plans, programmes and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States that have been implemented in response to the Programme of Action, as well as those that are under implementation and those that are envisaged for implementation within five years of the date of the report;

20. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

21. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a progress report on the particular actions taken to implement the present resolution.

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

Report of the Second Committee (Part VI)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 97 (see A/51/605, para. 2). Action on sub-item (e) was taken at the 19th and 38th meetings, on 29 October and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.19 and 38).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/51/L.6 AND L.33

2. At the 19th meeting, on 29 October, the representative of Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Colombia (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.6) entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind", which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 45/212 of 21 December 1990, 46/169 of 19 December 1991, 47/195 of 22 December 1992, 48/189 of 21 December 1993, 49/120 of 19 December 1994 and 50/115 of 20 December 1995,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/605 and addenda.

"Noting with satisfaction that most of the States Members of the United Nations and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and inviting States that are not Parties to the Convention to take appropriate action to that end,

"Noting that the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was convened from 8 to 19 July 1996 in Geneva, and that at that session the Conference of the Parties adopted a series of substantive decisions,

"Recalling that at its second session the Conference of the Parties took note of the Geneva Ministerial Declaration which commanded majority support among ministers and other heads of delegations attending the Conference,

"Considering the important scientific contribution to the convention process of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the World Meteorological Organization/United Nations Environment Programme, and considering also its second assessment report to be the most comprehensive and authoritative assessment now available of the scientific and technical information regarding global climate change,

"Concerned that changes in climate may result in significant - and often adverse - impacts on many ecological systems and socio-economic sectors, including food supply and water resources, and on human health, and noting that in some cases the impacts are potentially irreversible, and that developing countries and small island developing States are typically more vulnerable to climate change,

"Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing climate change and, in particular, to the successful conclusion of the Berlin Mandate process at the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

"Reiterating that a comprehensive approach should be adopted by the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in the implementation of the Convention, including the full consideration of the particular situation of the developing countries as recognized by the Convention,

"Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Japan to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties at Kyoto from 1 to 12 December 1997,

"Noting that the relocation of the Convention secretariat to Bonn, Germany, is well under way, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Germany and the city of Bonn for the facilities and support they are providing to the secretariat,

"Recalling its request to the Secretary-General, as put forth in General Assembly resolution 50/115, paragraph 9, to make the necessary arrangements to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the

biennium 1998-1999 those sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies that the Conference might need to convene in that period,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/115,

"1. Welcomes the administrative arrangements regarding personnel and financial matters that have been established in the context of the transitional arrangement for administrative support to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the biennium 1996-1997;

"2. Also welcomes the arrangements made for the provision of conference services to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies for the biennium 1996-1997;

"3. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, as set forth in General Assembly resolution 50/115, paragraph 10, to review the arrangements mentioned in operative paragraphs 1 and 2 above towards the end of the biennium 1996-1997 and to report upon the results of that review to the Assembly at its fifty-second session, taking into account evolving needs arising from the relocation to Bonn of the Convention secretariat;

"4. Notes with appreciation contributions made to the extrabudgetary funds established under paragraphs 10 and 20 of General Assembly resolution 45/212, and maintained in accordance with Assembly resolution 47/195, and calls upon Member States that are Parties to the Convention to also contribute generously to the trust fund for participation in the Convention process envisaged in paragraph 15 of its financial procedures, as well as to the trust funds envisaged for supplementary activities under the Convention;

"5. Urges Member States that are Parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full for each of the years 1996 and 1997, in accordance with the indicative scale adopted by consensus by the Conference of the Parties, the contributions required for the trust fund for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in paragraph 13 of its financial procedures, so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat;

"6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled 'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind' and to undertake thereat the consideration of the reviews requested in paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 50/115."

3. At the 38th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mohammad Reza Hadji Karim Djabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.33), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.6.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.33 (see para. 7).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the Marshall Islands made a statement (see A/C.2/51/SR.38).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.33, draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.6 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/212 of 21 December 1990, 46/169 of 19 December 1991, 47/195 of 22 December 1992, 48/189 of 21 December 1993, 49/120 of 19 December 1994 and 50/115 of 20 December 1995,

Noting with satisfaction that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1] and inviting States that are not Parties to take appropriate action to that end,

Welcoming the achievements of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was convened at Geneva from 8 to 19 July 1996, and noting that the Conference of the Parties at its second session adopted by consensus a series of substantive decisions,[2]

Recalling that at its second session the Conference of the Parties took note, without formal adoption, of the Geneva Ministerial Declaration which received majority support among ministers and other heads of delegations attending the Conference, which, inter alia, called for acceleration of negotiations on the text of a legally binding protocol or another legal instrument to be completed in due time for adoption at the third session of the Conference of the Parties, as mentioned in the Geneva Declaration,

Taking note with appreciation of the scientific contribution to the convention process of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the World Meteorological Organization/United Nations Environment Programme, and also

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[1] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I).

[2] See FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1.

taking note of its second assessment report as the most comprehensive assessment available to date of the issues related to global climate change,

Concerned that changes in climate may result in significant and often adverse impacts on many ecological systems and socio-economic sectors, including food supply and water resources, and on human health, and noting that in some cases the impacts are potentially irreversible, and that developing countries and small island developing States are typically more vulnerable to climate change,

Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing climate change and, in particular, to the successful conclusion of the Berlin Mandate[3] process at the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

Reiterating that a comprehensive approach should be adopted by the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in the implementation of the Convention, including the full consideration of the particular situation of the developing countries as recognized by the Convention,

Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Japan to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties at Kyoto from 1 to 12 December 1997,[4]

Noting that the relocation of the Convention secretariat to Bonn, Germany is well under way, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Germany and the city of Bonn for the facilities and support they are providing to the secretariat,

Recalling its request to the Secretary-General, as put forth in General Assembly resolution 50/115, paragraph 9, to make the necessary arrangements to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 those sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies that the Conference may need to convene in that period, and noting that those arrangements should be made without prejudice to the outcome of the review referred to in paragraph 3 of the present resolution,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/115,[5]

1. Notes the administrative arrangements regarding personnel and financial matters that have been established in the context of the transitional

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[3] FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.1.

[4] FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1, decision 1/CP.2.

[5] A/51/484.

arrangement for administrative support to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the biennium 1996-1997;[6]

2. Also notes the arrangements made for the provision of conference services to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies for the biennium 1996-1997;[7]

3. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, as set forth in General Assembly resolution 50/115, paragraph 10, to review the arrangements mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above towards the end of the biennium 1996-1997 and to report on the results of that review to the Assembly at its fifty-second session, taking into account evolving needs arising from the relocation to Bonn of the Convention secretariat;

4. Notes with appreciation contributions made to the extrabudgetary funds established under paragraphs 10 and 20 of General Assembly resolution 45/212, and maintained in accordance with Assembly resolution 47/195, and calls upon Member States that are Parties to the Convention to also contribute generously to the trust fund for participation in the Convention process envisaged in paragraph 15 of its financial procedures, and to the trust funds envisaged for supplementary activities under the Convention;[8]

5. Calls upon Member States that are Parties to the Convention to pay in full and in a timely manner for each of the years 1996 and 1997, in accordance with the indicative scale adopted by consensus by the Conference of the Parties,[9] the contributions required for the trust fund for the core budget of the Convention, envisaged in paragraph 13 of its financial procedures, so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat;

6. Invites the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and, pending the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly in 1997, to report on the results of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" and to consider at that session the reviews requested in paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 50/115.

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[6] Ibid., paras. 14-18.

[7] Ibid., para. 9.

[8] FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 15/CP.1, annex I, and decision 18/CP.1.

[9] Ibid., decision 15/CP.1, annex II.

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Report of the Second Committee (Part VII)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 97 (see A/51/605, para. 2). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 19th and 37th meetings, on 29 October and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.19 and 37).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/51/L.4 AND L.42

2. At the 19th meeting, on 29 October, the representative of Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Colombia (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.4) entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction", which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 48/188 of 21 December 1993, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994 and 50/117 A and 50/117 B, both of 20 December 1995, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/45 of 26 July 1996,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/605 and addenda.

"Expressing its solidarity with the people and countries that suffer as a result of natural disasters and expressing also the deepest sympathy to all victims of the natural disasters that have struck in various parts of the globe,

"Emphasizing once again the urgent need for concrete measures to reduce the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards, the loss of human lives and the heavy physical and economic damage that occur as a result of natural disasters, in particular in developing countries, small island States and landlocked countries,

"Commending those countries, national and local institutions, organizations and associations that have adopted policies, allocated resources and initiated action programmes, including international assistance, for disaster reduction and, in this context, welcoming the participation of private companies and individuals,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

"2. Reaffirms that disaster reduction is an integral part of and contributes to the achievement of sustainable development, through the protection, at the national and community levels, of such resources as human lives, human capacities, financial assets, natural assets, natural resources and the environment, means of production and infrastructure;

"3. Calls upon Member States, relevant intergovernmental bodies and all others involved in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to extend financial and technical support for Decade activities, in order to ensure the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade, in particular with a view to translating the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and the Plan of Action contained therein into concrete disaster reduction programmes and activities;

"4. Commends all countries that have mobilized domestic resources for disaster reduction activities and facilitated the effective implementation of such activities, and encourages all countries concerned to continue in this direction;

"5. Reaffirms the need to support the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action with particular regard to improving education and training in disaster reduction, including the creation of interdisciplinary and technical networking at all levels, for the purpose of capacity-building and human resources development in developing countries, in particular those that are prone to natural disasters, as well as least developed, small island and landlocked countries;

"6. Stresses the need for synergy between the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and that of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action as they relate to natural disaster reduction;

"7. Underlines the need for the United Nations system to ensure the integration of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action into the coordinated approach taken to the follow-up to all recent major United Nations conferences and summit meetings and to the implementation of their respective plans of action;

"8. Invites the Secretary-General, in particular, to facilitate, within the existing International Framework of Action for the Decade, an internationally concerted framework for improvements in early warning capacities by developing a concrete proposal for an effective international mechanism on early warning, to include the transfer of technologies related to early warning to developing countries, under the auspices of the United Nations and as part of the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade and the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action;

"9. Calls on the Secretary-General to ensure adequate consideration and involvement of the International Framework of Action for the Decade in the evaluation and overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 in 1997;

"10. Reaffirms that the secretariat of the Decade will continue to serve as the substantive secretariat for the preparation of the closing event of the Decade, working with the full support of relevant bodies of the United Nations Secretariat and drawing on the contributions of the organizations of the United Nations system concerned, other international organizations and Governments;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the availability of resources for the activities related to the preparation of the closing event of the Decade and to appeal for additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Decade;

"12. Also requests the Secretary-General to review relationships and responsibilities for natural disaster reduction with respect to the future, and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade, including concrete proposals for ensuring the distinct performance capability of the secretariat of the Decade, in order to bring the Decade to its successful conclusion by the year 1999;

"13. Requests the secretariat of the Decade to convene, in its capacity as substantive secretariat of the closing event of the Decade, the first meeting of the preparatory committee for the closing event, not later than the special session of the General Assembly to review Agenda 21, and with due recognition of equitable regional representation."

3. On 22 November, a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.4 was circulated by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/51/L.36).

4. At the 37th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mohammad Reza Hadji Karim Djabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.42), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.4.

5. The Secretary of the Committee informed the Committee that the programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/51/L.36 did not apply to draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.42 (see A/C.2/51/SR.37).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.42 (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.42, draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.4 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 48/188 of 21 December 1993, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, and 50/117 A and 50/117 B, both of 20 December 1995, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/45 of 26 July 1996,

Expressing its solidarity with the people and countries that suffer as a result of natural disasters and expressing also the deepest sympathy to all victims of the natural disasters that have struck in various parts of the globe,

Emphasizing once again the urgent need for concrete measures to reduce the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards, the loss of human lives and the heavy physical and economic damage that occur as a result of natural disasters, in particular in developing countries, small island developing States and landlocked countries,

Commending those countries, national and local institutions, organizations and associations that have adopted policies, allocated resources and initiated action programmes, including international assistance, for disaster reduction and, in this context, welcoming the participation of private companies and individuals,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;[1]

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[1] A/51/186-E/1996/80.

2. Reaffirms that disaster reduction forms an integral part of sustainable development strategies and national development plans of vulnerable countries and communities;

3. Calls upon all States, relevant intergovernmental bodies and all others involved in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to participate actively in the financial and technical support for Decade activities, in order to ensure the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade,[2] in particular with a view to translating the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and the Plan of Action contained therein[3] into concrete disaster reduction programmes and activities;

4. Commends all countries, in particular those developing and least developed countries that have mobilized domestic resources for disaster reduction activities and have facilitated the effective implementation of such activities, and encourages all developing countries concerned to continue in this direction;

5. Reaffirms the need to support the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action, with particular regard to improving education and training in disaster reduction, including the creation of interdisciplinary and technical networking at all levels, for the purpose of capacity-building and human resources development in developing countries, in particular those that are prone to natural disasters, as well as least developed, small island developing and landlocked countries;

6. Welcomes the initiatives aimed at defining regional frameworks for disaster mitigation, such as the regional seminars held in Africa and the Mediterranean;

7. Stresses the need for synergy between the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[4] and that of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action as they relate to natural disaster reduction;

8. Underlines the need for the United Nations system to ensure the integration of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action into the coordinated approach taken to the follow-up to all recent major United Nations conferences and summit meetings and to the implementation of their respective plans of action;

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[2] See resolution 44/236, annex.

[3] A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

9. Invites the Secretary-General, in particular to facilitate, within the existing International Framework of Action for the Decade, an internationally concerted framework for improvements in early warning by developing a concrete proposal for an effective international mechanism on early warning, to include the transfer of technologies related to early warning to developing countries, under the auspices of the United Nations and as part of the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade and the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action;

10. Calls upon the secretariat of the Decade to continue to facilitate a concerted international approach to improvements in early warning capacities for natural disasters and similar disasters with adverse impact on the environment within the process leading towards the closing event of the Decade;

11. Recommends that adequate consideration be given to the International Framework of Action for the Decade as part of the evaluation and overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21[5] in 1997;

12. Reaffirms that the secretariat of the Decade will continue to serve as the substantive secretariat for the preparation of the closing event of the Decade, working with the full support of relevant bodies of the United Nations Secretariat and drawing on the contributions of the organizations of the United Nations system concerned, other international organizations and Governments;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to appeal for additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Decade;

14. Also requests the Secretary-General to bring forward, as a first step in the process leading towards the closing event of the Decade, and in order to begin the preparatory process in 1998, proposals arising from consultation with interested parties, and to set forth in his substantive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, proposals regarding the format, substance and timing of the event, also taking into account, inter alia, the need to review relationships and responsibilities relevant to natural disaster reduction with respect to the future and the performance capability of the secretariat of the Decade.

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[5] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (vol. I and vol. I/Corr.1, vol. II, vol. III and vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference resolution 1, annex II.

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part VIII)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 97 (see A/51/605, para. 2). Action on questions not related to specific sub-items was taken at the 26th and 37th meetings, on 5 November and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.26 and 37).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.2/51/L.11

2. At the 26th meeting, on 5 November 1996, the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Belarus, Georgia, Latvia, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Ukraine, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Application of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in international cooperation on the environment" (A/C.2/51/L.11), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular, those stating that States have a sovereign right to exploit their own natural resources, pursuant to their environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/605 and addenda.

the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

"Recalling also that, in view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities, and standards applied by some countries may be inappropriate or of unwarranted economic and social cost to other countries,

"Recalling further that one of the goals of international law-making on environment and sustainable development, as contained in Agenda 21, is to promote and support the effective participation of all countries concerned, in particular, developing countries, in the negotiation, implementation, review and governance of international agreements or instruments, including the provision of appropriate technical and financial assistance and other available mechanisms for that purpose and the use of differential obligations, where appropriate, and also to promote international standards for the protection of the environment which take into account the different situations and capabilities of countries,

"1. Calls upon the international community to apply, where necessary, the principle of common but differentiated responsibility in ongoing international cooperation on the protection of the environment and in efforts to implement existing instruments of international environmental law and the elaboration of new instruments, and to continue to take fully into account specific circumstances and requirements, in particular, those of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, thus facilitating their compliance with their obligations under international agreements;

"2. Strongly calls upon the international community to provide assistance and support for effective participation of all concerned countries in the implementation of their commitments in the field of environment and sustainable development, inter alia, through technical and financial assistance and the use of other appropriate mechanisms, including bilateral and regional channels and multilateral institutions and funds;

"3. Invites the Secretary-General, in the course of preparations for the special session of the General Assembly, called for the purpose of overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, to submit information on the application of the principles contained in the Rio Declaration and proposals on further measures regarding their full account in international law-making and other forms of cooperation on the environment and development;

"4. Invites the General Assembly at its special session in 1997 to consider the issue of the application of the principles in the Rio Declaration in different legal instruments adopted so far, with particular focus on the role played by the United Nations and its bodies, and to suggest recommendations on further development of international law in the field of sustainable development."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mohammad Reza Hadji Karim Djabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran), informed the Committee that, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.41 (see A/51/605/Add.2, para. 8), draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.11 was withdrawn by its sponsors.